

Serial No.: 10/673,207
Docket No.: 101-1004
Amendment with RCE dated February 23, 2010
RCE and Reply to the Final Office Action of November 24, 2009

REMARKS

Introduction

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that each of the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement of October 27, 2005 has been considered.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 43-51 are pending in the application. Claims 1-42 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 43-51 have been newly added. No new matter is being presented. In view of the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC §112

Claims 1, 6, 9 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Applicants have canceled claims 1, 6, 9, and 13 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Rejection under 35 USC §112

Claims 9 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 10, 11, and 12 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants have canceled claims 9 -13 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Rejection under 35 USC §102

Claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 10-13 and 39-42 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2002/114002 to Mitsubori. Applicants have canceled claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 10-13 and 39-42 without prejudice or disclaimer.

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Rejection under 35 USC §103

Claim 7 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitsubori in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,019,869 to Chen. Applicants have canceled claim 7 without prejudice or disclaimer.

New Claims

New claims 43-51 have been newly added.

New independent claim 43 recites, among other things, an image forming apparatus including a scanner module to scan a document to generate scanned data, a first input/output port connectable to a computer, a second input/output port removably connectable to a portable storage unit, and a control unit to detect an attachment state of the portable storage unit with respect to the second input/output port and to control storing of the scanned data according to the detected attachment state of the portable storage unit such that when it is determined that the portable storage unit is attached to the second input/output port, the control unit stores the scanned data in the portable storage unit.

New claim 44 recites that the image forming apparatus of claim 43 can include an internal storage unit to store data, wherein, when it is determined that the portable storage unit is not attached to the second input/output port, the control unit stores the scanned data in the internal storage unit.

New claim 45 recites that the image forming apparatus of claim 44 can include a printing unit for printing the scanned data stored either in the internal storage unit or the portable storage unit connected to the second input/output port.

New claim 46 recites that the image forming apparatus of claim 43 can include where the second input/output port has a universal serial bus (USB) port and the portable storage unit comprises a USB memory device.

New claim 47 recites that the image forming apparatus of claim 43 can include where the portable device comprises one selected from the group consisting of a memory stick (MS), a

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compact flash (CF) card, a secure digital (SD) memory card, a multimedia card (MMC), a smart media (SM) card, a universal serial bus (USB) memory card, and an xD-picture card.

New claim 48 recites that the image forming apparatus of claim 43 can include where the second input/output port communicates with the portable storage unit.

New claim 49 recites that the image forming apparatus of claim 43 can include where the second input/output port comprises a USB port.

New claim 50 recites that the image forming apparatus of claim 43 can include where the portable storage unit comprises a USB connector connectable to a USB port of the second input/output port.

New independent claim 51 recites a method of storing scanned data generated by a scanner module of an image forming apparatus comprising a first input/output port connectable to a computer and a second input/output port removably connectable to a portable storage unit, the method including scanning a document to generate scanned data, detecting an attachment state of the portable storage unit with respect to the second input/output port, and storing the scanned data according to the detected attachment stage of the portable storage unit such that when it is determined that the portable storage unit is attached to the second input/output port, the scanned data is stored in the portable scanned unit.

Applicants respectfully submit that support for new claims 43-51 can be found, for example, in FIGS. 1A, 1B, 3, 5, 6, and 7, as well as corresponding portions of the detailed description.

Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art of record does not teach or disclose all limitations of new claims 43-51. In particular, the prior art of record does not teach, disclose, or suggest, among other things, Applicants' "a control unit to detect an attachment state of the portable storage unit with respect to the second input/output port and to control storing of the scanned data according to the detected attachment state of the portable storage unit such that when it is determined that the portable storage unit is attached to the second input/output port, the control unit stores the scanned data in the portable storage unit," as recited in new independent claim 43, and "storing the scanned data according to the detected attachment

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stage of the portable storage unit such that when it is determined that the portable storage unit is attached to the second input/output port, the scanned data is stored in the portable scanned unit” as recited in independent claim 51.

Referring to FIG. 8 of Mitsubori as relied upon by the Examiner on pages 4, 5, 8, 9, and 11 of the Office Action and page 2 of the Advisory Action mailed February 2, 2010, Mitsubori illustrates and describes in paragraph [0113] an “image-processing system” with “a scanner 12, which functions as the image-processing device,” and a “Web server 20,” where the scanner 12 and the web server 20 are “interlinked with the communication network 30.” Mitsubori illustrates and describes that the “scanner 12” is “connected to a printer” 40 via a “local interface.” That is, Mitsubori illustrates and describes that the scanner 12 and the web server 20 are “interlinked with the communication network 30” and that the scanner 12 is “connected to a printer” 40 via a “local interface,” not a “control unit” to “detect an attachment state of the portable storage unit” and to “control storing of the scanned data according to the detected attachment state of the portable storage unit” such that “when it is determined that the portable storage unit is attached to the second input/output port,” the control unit “stores the scanned data in the portable storage unit.” Applicants submit that Mitsubori merely illustrates and describes “interlink[ing]” the scanner 12 and the web server 20 with the communication network 30, not “detect[ing] an attachment state of the portable storage unit” and “storing of the scanned data according to the detected attachment state of the portable storage unit” such that “when it is determined that the portable storage unit is attached to the second input/output port,” a control unit “stores the scanned data” in the “portable storage unit” as recited in independent claim 43.

Applicants respectfully submit as claims 44-50 depend from independent claim 43, and therefore contain all of the features as recited in claim 43, claims 44-50 are also patentable over the prior art of record.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 51 is patentably distinguishable from the prior art of record for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with independent claim 43.

Accordingly, for at least the above reasons, claims 43-51 are patentably distinguishable over the prior art of record.

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Consideration and allowance of new claims 43-51 are earnestly solicited.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, there being no other objections or rejections, this application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 502827.

Respectfully submitted,

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